

LIFE+ Call for proposals 2010

National annual priorities for Finland

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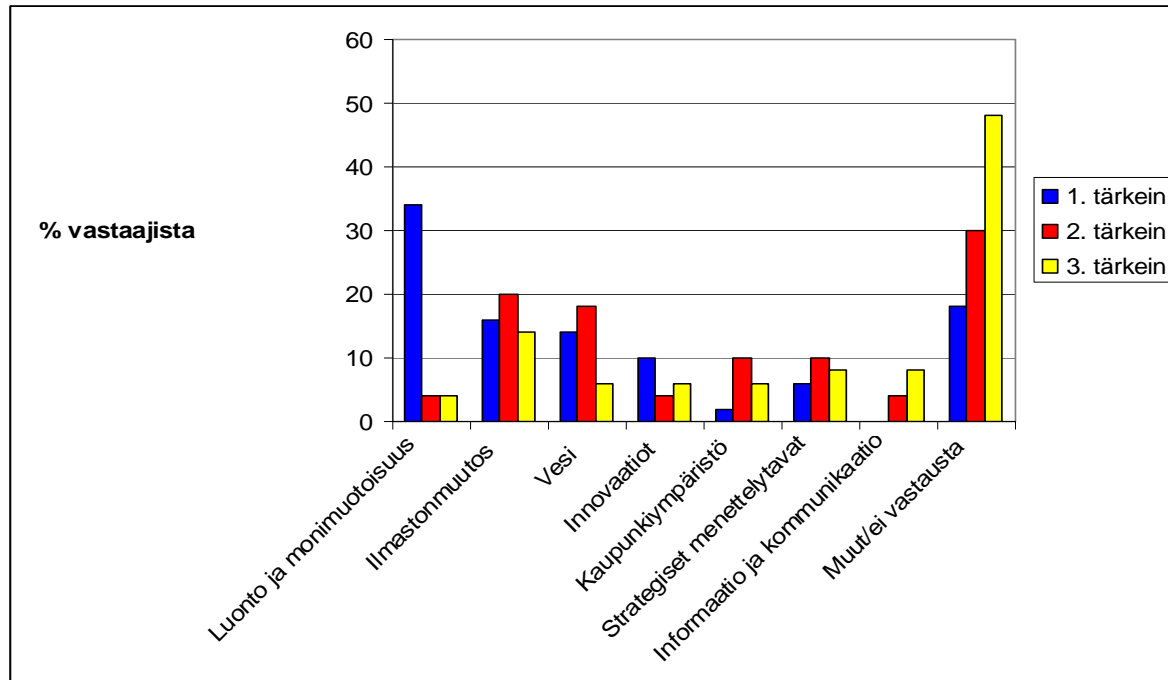
Website www.ymparisto.fi/life

2. METHOD EMPLOYED TO SELECT THE NATIONAL PRIORITIES

In autumn 2007, the Finnish Environment Institute sent out a questionnaire to stakeholders such as regional environment centres, employment and economic development centres (TE-keskukset), some of the major municipalities, business organizations, the Association of Finnish Local and Regional Authorities, NGO's and other groups and organizations. The questionnaire was sent to a total of 133 stakeholders and 50 responses were received (38%).

According to the questionnaire respondents, the following areas of Life+ were considered the most important:

The most important topics of Life+, according to the questionnaire respondents (% of answers). Topics in English from left to right: Nature and Biodiversity ; Climate change ; Water ; Innovations ; Urban environment ; Strategic approaches ; Information and Communication ; other/no answer. The first priority is marked with blue colours; The second priority is in red colour and the third priority is in yellow colour.



After the questionnaire was sent, the Ministry of the Environment carried out an assessment process both internally and externally (consultations with other ministries).

The Ministry of the Environment is renewing its strategy, to be published under name "Strategy of the Finnish Ministry of the Environment" (2010) (in Finnish only, to be published in June 2010). The main goals set out in the strategy of the Ministry of the Environment are to increase environmental responsibility throughout Finnish society, to ensure that our environment is safe, and to improve the state of the Baltic Sea. Reaching these goals will involve:

- promoting the use of economic policy instruments
- slowing the impoverishment of biodiversity
- curbing eutrophication in the Baltic Sea, and building up adequate capacity to prevent oil pollution
- reducing the amounts of waste generated in relation to economic growth
- reducing the harmful affects of hazardous and dangerous substances
- preparing to influence the setting of targets for the next phase of the implementation of the UNFCCC (UN Framework Convention on Climate Change), and then carrying out the necessary measures

In order to define the national priorities, three recent reports by the Ministry of the Environment were of central importance:

- “The main goals and challenges of the Finnish environmental administration during 2009-2012” (2008) (in Finnish only). The report identifies the most important challenges for Finland in the changing world and presents the main interventions and actions needed to overcome the challenges. It also includes certain indicators to measure the progress (see: <http://www.environment.fi/download.asp?contentid=61957&lan=fi>).

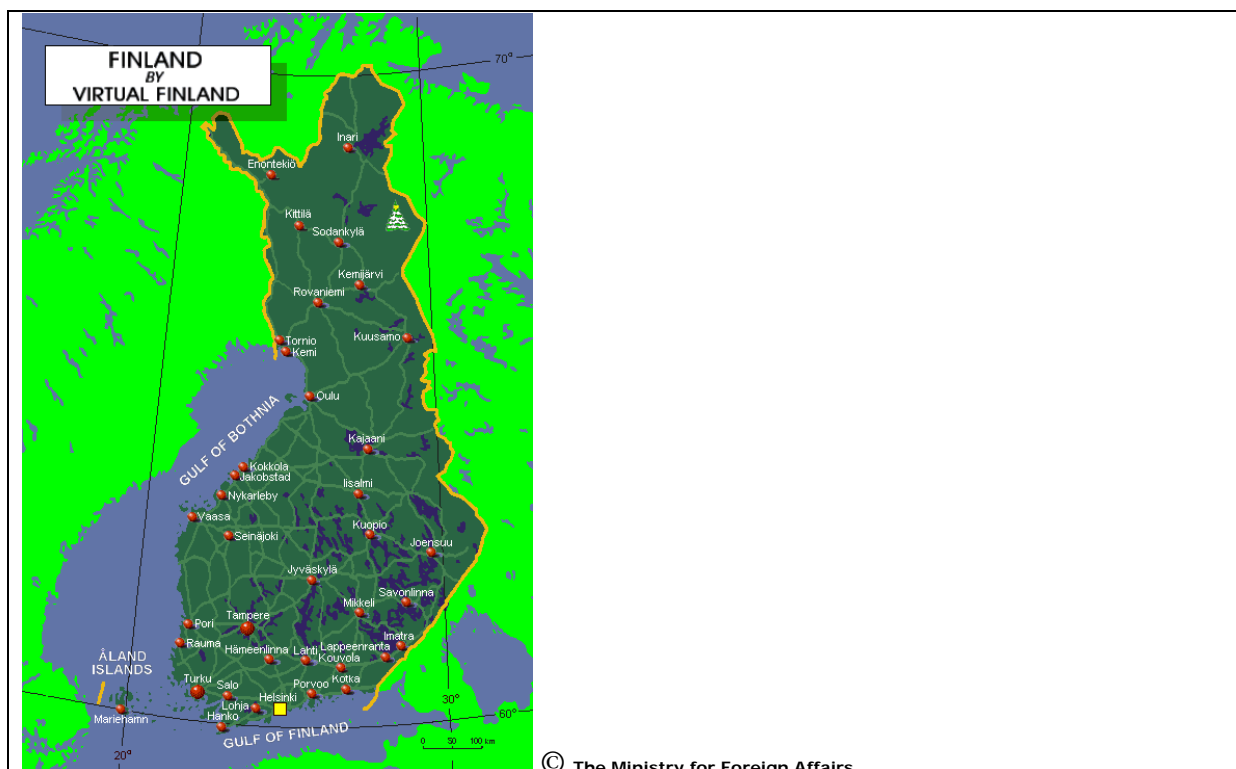
- “Roadmap for environmental research to aid in decision-making” (2007) (in Finnish only). This report focuses on strengthening environmental research and identifies the development actions in Finland that need to be promoted and initiated on a rapid schedule (see: <http://www.ymparisto.fi/download.asp?contentid=73437&lan=fi>).

- “Saving nature for people – National Strategy and Action Plan for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity in Finland 2006-2016” (2007). The report outlines the special features of the natural environment in Finland, the current state of biodiversity and Finland's vision and strategic objectives for improving biodiversity. The Action Plan with 108 concrete measures is based on these objectives (see: <http://www.environment.fi/download.asp?contentid=75624&lan=en>).

3. IDENTIFIED LONG-TERM NEEDS IN CONNECTION WITH NATIONAL PRIORITIES

Information on various aspects of the state of the environment in Finland can be found on the Ministry's web pages (<http://www.ymparisto.fi/default.asp?node=4065&lan=en>).

The statistics and analyses presented there are based on the results of research, monitoring and data analysis work carried out by Finland's environmental administration. The information is divided into 13 topics: air, surface waters, groundwater, soils and bedrock, biodiversity, built environment, climate change, ozone depletion, eutrophication, acidification, toxic substances, wastes, noise and vibration.



A review of the state of Finland's natural resources and the environment is presented in the report “Finland's Natural Resources and the Environment 2006” (see <http://www.ymparisto.fi/download.asp?contentid=57772&lan=en>).

This report on natural resources presents the main principles of the interaction between the national economy and the environment and describes the extent to which the objectives of sustainable development have been realised in Finland. It also reviews trends in the main sectors of the economy as they affect the environment. These sectors include natural resources and environmental protection, industry, energy and transport. Finally, the publication contains a presentation of the principal agreements on natural resources and the conservation of the environment to which Finland is committed.

Information on the state of the environment in the Baltic Sea can be found on the website of the Helsinki Commission (HELCOM) (<http://www.helcom.fi/>).

The Baltic Sea is a shallow and semi-enclosed sea, and it is one of the largest bodies of brackish water in the world with a very slow water exchange rate. The average depth is only 55 m, whereas the Mediterranean, for example, is 1 500 m deep on average. The Baltic Sea has a unique and fragile ecosystem with naturally low numbers of species and is highly sensitive to all kinds of pollution. It is surrounded by many large cities and regions with intensive agriculture and industry. It is also one of the busiest shipping lanes in the world. The major problems facing the Baltic are eutrophication, toxic substances, overfishing and maritime activities. All nine countries bordering the Baltic Sea are EU member states except Russia.

In addition to the documents mentioned in the section 2, these reports from the Finnish Ministry of the Environment are crucial in identifying long-term needs in connection with national priorities for Life+:

- “The main goals and challenges of the Finnish environmental administration during 2009-2012” (2008) (in Finnish only)

- Sustainable public procurement : Public sector becomes a pioneer in sustainable procurement (<http://www.ymparisto.fi/default.asp?contentid=323695&lan=en&clan=en>)

- Finland's national strategy for sustainable development "Towards sustainable choices. Nationally and globally sustainable Finland" (<http://www.ymparisto.fi/default.asp?contentid=50538&lan=fi>)

- “Roadmap for environmental research to aid in decision-making” (2007) (in Finnish only) (<http://www.ymparisto.fi/download.asp?contentid=73437&lan=fi>)

Getting more from less - Proposition for a National Programme on Sustainable Consumption and Production (<http://www.ymparisto.fi/default.asp?contentid=137221&lan=fi>)

- Air Pollution Control Programme 2010, National Programme for the Directive (2001/81/EU) (<http://www.ymparisto.fi/default.asp?contentid=49511&lan=fi>)

- National waste plan (<http://www.ymparisto.fi/default.asp?node=2655&lan=fi>)

- The Baltic Sea Action plan (<http://www.ymparisto.fi/default.asp?contentid=56531&lan=fi>)

- Finnish National Programme on Dangerous Chemicals (<http://www.ymparisto.fi/default.asp?node=19991&lan=en>)

- Finnish Government decision-in-principle on Water Protection Policy Outlines to 2015 (<http://www.ymparisto.fi/default.asp?contentid=210835&lan=fi>)

- “Saving nature for people – National Strategy and Action Plan for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity in Finland 2006-2016” (<http://www.ymparisto.fi/default.asp?contentid=258249&lan=EN>)

	Principal objectives and priorities as set out in Annex II of the LIFE+ Regulation	Area chosen as national annual priority: (Tick if appropriate)	Types of projects as set out in Article 3(2) of the LIFE+ Regulation	Specific national objective (Please include reference to more information)
LIFE+ NATURE AND BIODIVERSITY				
1. Nature and Biodiversity To protect, conserve, restore, monitor and facilitate the functioning of natural systems, natural habitats, wild flora and fauna, with the aim of halting the loss of biodiversity, including diversity of genetic resources, within the EU by 2010.				
Priority areas of action (PPA)	a) contributing to implement Community policy and legislation on nature and biodiversity, in particular of Directives 79/409/EEC and 92/43/EEC, and promote its integration with other policy areas;	X	A, B	See the Finnish environmental long-term needs and objectives in the section 3
	b) supporting the further development and implementation of the Natura 2000 network, including coastal and marine habitats and species;			
	c) supporting design and implementation of policy approaches and instruments for monitoring and assessing national and biodiversity and the factors, pressures and responses that impacts on it, in particular in relation to achieving the target of halting biodiversity loss within the Community by 2010;	X	A, B	See the Finnish environmental long-term needs and objectives in the section 3
	d) improving the knowledge of the impact of genetically modified organisms on ecosystems and biodiversity: risk assessment methodologies.			
LIFE+ ENVIRONMENT POLICY AND GOVERNANCE				
2. Climate change Stabilising greenhouse gas concentration at a level that prevents global warming above 2°C.				
Priority areas of action	a) Ensuring the implementation of EU commitments under the UNFCCC Kyoto protocol and developing a post 2012 strategy and implementation programme with a view on further reducing EU	X	B	See the Finnish environmental long-term needs and objectives

	greenhouse gas emissions up to 2020.			in the section 3
	b) ensuring the adaptation of the EU economy and society, nature and biodiversity, water resources and human health to the adverse impacts of climate change (to a potential temperature increase of 2°C resulting from increased greenhouse gas concentrations) and mitigating its impact;	X	B	See the Finnish environmental long-term needs and objectives in the section 3
	c) ensuring the implementation and use of market-based instruments, in particular greenhouse gases emissions trading, in order to achieve a cost-efficient emissions reduction in a post-2012 framework.			
3. Water Contributing to enhanced water quality by developing cost-effective measures to achieve good ecological status in view of developing the first river basin management plan under the Water Framework Directive (WFD) by 2009.				
Priority areas of action	a) preparing the WFD programmes of measures and integrating measures from parent directives such as e.g. Urban Waste-water Treatment Directive, the Bathing Water Directive, the Drinking Water Directive, the Plant Protection Products and Nitrates Directive, and the IPPC Directive;	X	B	See the Finnish environmental long-term needs and objectives in the section 3
	b) contributing to the effective implementation of the EU Marine Strategy;	X	B	See the Finnish environmental long-term needs and objectives in the section 3
4. Air Achieving levels of air quality that do not give rise to significant negative impacts on and risks to human health and the environment				
PAA	a) implementing the Thematic Strategy on air pollution			
5. Soil Protecting and ensuring the sustainable use of soil by preserving soil functions, preventing threats to soil, mitigating their effects and restoring degraded soils.				
PPA	a) implementing the Thematic Strategy on the protection of soil; and	X	B	See the Finnish environmental long-term needs and objectives in the section 3

	b) ensuring the protection and restoration of soil biodiversity.			
6. Urban environment Contributing to improving the environmental performance of Europe's urban areas.				
PPA	a) contributing to a better implementation of existing EU environmental policies and legislation at the local level by supporting and encouraging local authorities to adopt a more integrated approach to urban management, including the transport and energy sectors.	X	B	See the Finnish environmental long-term needs and objectives in the section 3
7. Noise Contributing to policy development and implementation on ambient noise.				
PPA	a) to prevent and reduce the harmful effect from exposure to ambient noise.			
8. Chemicals To improve the environment and health from risks posed by chemicals by 2020 by implementing chemicals legislation, in particular the REACH regulation and the Thematic Strategy on the sustainable use of pesticides.				
PPA	a) enhancing science-policy integration and the transfer of results to provide a solid technical background in support of REACH;			
	b) implementation of the Thematic Strategy on the sustainable use of pesticides.			
9. Environment and health Developing the formation base for policy on the environment and health (the Environment and Health Action Plan for 2004 to 2010).				
PPA	a) human bio monitoring and data linkage on environment and health;	X	B	See the Finnish environmental long-term needs and objectives in the section 3
	b) protection of the ozone layer to reduce negative health and environmental impacts.			

10. Waste and natural resources Developing and implementing policies designed to ensure sustainable management and use of natural resources and waste, improving the environmental performances of products, sustainable production and consumption patterns, waste prevention, recovery and recycling. Contributing to the effective implementation of the Thematic Strategy on waste.

Priority areas of action	a) promoting sustainable use of natural resources, with a life-cycle approach, including environmental, social and economic aspects, in order to decouple environmental impact from economic growth;	X	B	See the Finnish environmental long-term needs and objectives in the section 3
	b) promoting waste prevention, recovery and recycling with a focus on life-cycle thinking, eco-design and the development of recycling markets; and	X	B	See the Finnish environmental long-term needs and objectives in the section 3
	c) contributing to the implementation of Community policy and legislation on waste, in particular the Landfill Directive, the Waste Framework Directive, the Waste Shipment Regulation and POPs Regulations and the Directives on Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE), Restrictions of the use of Certain Hazardous Substances (RoHS), End-of-Life Vehicles (ELVs), Hazardous Waste, Waste Oils, PCBs and mining waste.			

11. Forests Providing, especially through an EU coordination network, a concise and comprehensive basis for policy relevant information on forest in relation to climate change (impact on forest ecosystems, mitigation, substitution effects), biodiversity (baseline information and protected forest areas), forest fires, forest condition and the protective functions of forests (water, soil and infrastructure) as well as contributing to protect forests against fires.

Priority areas of action	a) promoting the collection, analysis and dissemination of policy-relevant information concerning forests and interactions between forests and the environment;			
	b) promoting the harmonisation and effectiveness of forest monitoring activities and data collection systems and making use of synergies by creating links between monitoring mechanisms established at regional, national, European and global level;			
	c) stimulating synergies between specific forests related issues and environmental initiatives and legislation (e.g. EU soil strategy, Natura 2000, Water Framework Directive, etc.);	X	B	See the Finnish environmental long-term needs and objectives in the section 3

	d) contributing to sustainable forest management in particular by collecting data related to the improved Pan-European Indicators for Sustainable Forest Management as adopted by the MCPFE Expert Level Meeting 7-8 October 2002, Vienna, Austria; and			
	e) building capacities at national and Community level to allow for coordination and guidance on forest monitoring.			
12. Innovation To contributing to developing and demonstrating innovative policy approaches, technologies, methods and instruments to assist implementation of the European Technologies Action Plan (ETAP).				
PPA	a) promoting the identification, demonstration and dissemination of innovative technologies and practices, through actions complementary to those of the Competitiveness and Innovation Programme;			
13. Strategic approaches - Promoting effective implementation and enforcement of EC environmental legislation and improving the knowledge base for environmental policy; - Improving the environmental performance of SMEs;				
Priority areas of action	a) strengthening the knowledge base for policy making and implementation by building a Shared Environmental Information System (SEIS) and supporting the implementation of the Global Monitoring for the Environment and Security initiative (GMES)			
	b) implementing the Environmental Compliance Assistance Programme for SMEs.			
LIFE+ INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION				
16. Information and Communication Ensuring regular and effective information flow to provide the basis for policy decisions on the environment, and to provide accessible information to citizens on the state and trends of the environment				
PPA	a) disseminating information, eco-labelling, raising awareness and developing specific skills on environmental issues, including on forest fire prevention.	X	B	See the Finnish environmental long-term needs and objectives in the section 3

